HSUS CENTER NEARING COMPLETION

Construction is proceeding rapidly on the HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education and Nature Center in East Haddam. In consequence this autumn has been an exciting time for animal welfare in Connecticut as woodcutters, bulldozers, concrete pourers and carpenters have moved apace preparing the ground and erecting the new building so that it will be ready for occupancy early in the New Year.

Along with the construction, we have made every effort to retain the woodland atmosphere, sparing the lovely dogwoods and laurel, and clearing an absolute minimum of the woods.

Apart from the main building, the pet cemetery in a beautiful secluded glen is almost ready to open. Members or friends who wish their pets interred should call our East Haddam headquarters for details.

We have said previously the Center will be the first establishment of its particular kind in the nation and as such it has already attracted nationwide attention. We hope that all of our members will take time out to visit the Center most especially at the Grand Opening whose date will be announced later.

Rear Admiral Shaw, HSUS Director, who flies in balloons as a hobby, has been looking forward to the opening for longer than he cares to remember and is thinking of making a balloon ascension from the site on the great day to be symbolic of the fact that we have risen above all sorts of obstacles to bring this project to fruition.

Blessing Of Animals At Bridgeport Municipal Shelter

The Blessing of animals at the Bridgeport Municipal Shelter has become a happy annual event participated in by both the general public and HSUS on the occasion of St. Francis Day. Among those taking part at this year’s Blessing were HSUS members Father Delmar Markle (officiating Episcopal clergyman), Miss Gladys Steeg (humanitarian and a prime organizer of the event) and Mr. John Dommers (HSUS Education Director).

In addition to the Blessing there were tours of the shelter, entertainment by singing nurses from Bridgeport Hospital and refreshments. Animal Control Officers James McGinnis, Sam Crisante, and Tom Simon acted as shelter hosts and guides.

We suggest that HSUS readers consider conducting similar services in their communities. Such services remind people of the essential place of animals in our world and man’s responsibility toward those animals.
REFERENDUM APPROVES REGIONAL CONCEPT

HSUS (Connecticut) members voted overwhelmingly in favor of the recent referendum to authorize establishment of an HSUS New England Region with headquarters in East Haddam. The vote means that in the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont, HSUS Committees similar to those now in Connecticut shortly will be organized. HSUS staff assistance in those states will also be offered for the first time on a continuing basis.

In Connecticut the referendum approval will result in strengthening of animal welfare operations, not only because of a larger and more diversified staff in the area, but because all HSUS National facilities, resources and staff specialists will be available for Connecticut projects.

As part of this new Norma Terris Humane Education and Nature Center in East Haddam whose construction has been advanced by at least a half a year through National assistance.

For instance, routine receipts, disbursements and record keeping will all be handled by HSUS (National). HSUS (Connecticut) members should note that inquiries and requests will continue to be received and acted upon at our current East Haddam address and phone number.

GUILFORD SENIOR WINS SCHOLARSHIP

Helen Sprague, a 1972 graduate of Guilford High School, has been awarded the HSUS Christopher Grattan Shaw Scholarship Award as the “Connecticut Secondary School Student who has performed outstanding service in behalf of animals.”

Helen’s achievements in the animal welfare field are many. She established a wild life sanctuary on her home property and cared for distressed wild creatures. She rescued and placed numerous stray dogs and cats. Helen also prepared papers and produced outstanding school work indicating a keen awareness of the habits and needs of animals.

She also imbued others with the spirit of giving one’s self in behalf of the less fortunate of God’s creatures.

Helen plans to continue her education toward the goal of becoming a veterinarian. We wish her all success. Mankind and the animal kingdom have need of such as her.

REAR ADMIRAL SHAW NAMED REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Rear Admiral James C. Shaw, who has been affiliated with HSUS in Connecticut for nearly a decade, is taking the helm of the recently organized six-state New England Region.

Commenting on the appointment he remarked: “Ten years ago a regional set-up would really have been an impossible dream. But the public, our Society and times have changed drastically. There remain a multitude of animal welfare problems, however, the American attitude has altered not only toward the environment as a whole, but toward care and protection of animals specifically.

“At the same time HSUS has multiplied its membership strength, staff capabilities and resources many times over. I predict that the next score of years will see more progress in the humane movement than in the past two centuries. Let’s hope so!”

NORMA TERRIS DOES IT AGAIN — A BENEFIT FOR HSUS

Stage and screen star Norma Terris, for whom the new HSUS Humane Education and Nature Center is named, is well known in humane circles not only for her gift of land to the Center but for two highly successful benefit theatrical performances which she produced and starred in at the Good-speed Opera House.

This year Miss Terris financed and directed a different kind of production—a tag sale of much of her furniture and personal belongings for the benefit of the Center. The sale, held in Essex, was highly successful as might be expected of anything this talented and gracious lady undertakes.

WILD ANIMALS — NOT FOR TAME PEOPLE

Wild animals are not for tame people or any other kind of people for that matter, so says HSUS Education Director John Dommers who ought to know since he has been associated with both animals in zoos and animals in the wild for the past several years.

Recently he had an opportunity to express and explain his philosophy when a resident of Clinton applied for permission to keep a young lion as a pet. There ensued a spirited newspaper debate between the lion’s owner and Mr. Dommers concerning the advisability of harboring wild beasts in the home.

Our society won by advancing the arguments which all of our members should know just in case a neighbor in your town tries to adopt anything from a Connecticut raccoon (they’re so cute!) to an African kangaroo (not quite gas!).

Mr. Dommers stated: “There are both legal and practical problems associated with the keeping of wild animals as pets by private citizens. Our office can advise concerning legality in any particular case.

When considering practicality, it really doesn’t matter how long a person has had a wild pet or how much confidence he has in its tameness. The animal can revert to its natural defensive behavior and exhibit its lightning reflexes with no warning.

“Further, we feel it wrong to bring a wild animal into the home where there is no knowledge and inadequate facilities for its care and maintenance. We know of numerous instances which have been disastrous for the owners and tragic for the animals.”

GUILFORD SENIOR WINS SCHOLARSHIP

Helen Sprague of Guilford coddles animals which she has cared for in her wild life sanctuary.

HSUS Co-Sponsors Greenwich Environmental Meeting

Our Society, with an abiding interest in the protection of wild life, frequently joins forces with conservationists and others seeking to preserve or improve our environment. An instance of this concerted action was a recent day-long environmental seminar held at the Audubon Club in Greenwich.

Included among the sponsors were HSUS, the Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy and the Sierra Club. Invited guests included delegates from nearly a score of interested Connecticut organizations varying all the way from the League of Women Voters to area conservation districts. The Honorable Douglas Costle, Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Protection headed a group of Connecticut officials making presentations.

Rear Admiral James C. Shaw, HSUS Director, and Mr. John Dommers, HSUS Education Director, represented our Society.

They reported the meeting extremely valuable in two principal regards. First, such gatherings afford HSUS the chance to advocate protection of animals in any conservation or environmental projects. Second, opportunity is afforded to discuss the importance of the humane ethic and concern for animals that should be part of the philosophy and conduct of the “save and improve our world” movement.

BRIDGEPORT SHELTER IS FEATURE OF HSUS EDUCATION FILM

An audio-visual presentation, part of which will be filmed at the Bridgeport Shelter, is currently being produced by Education Director John Dommers for use in America’s elementary and secondary school classrooms.

Bridgeport was selected as the setting since its modern well-run shelter is an excellent model for this humane education venture which will have national distribution.
HSUS has been fortunate in having as our Connecticut President Mr. Raymond E. Cummings who has brought to our Society not only years of interest and activity in humane work, but the common sense and purpose that go with being a successful business man, in this case the president and treasurer of a large banking firm headquartered in New Britain.

Additionally, he has taught on college faculties, authored business texts and served as a board member of numerous business and charitable corporations.

Currently Mr. Cummings has turned energies and talents toward making the Norma Terris Education and Nature Center a reality. At the same time his name appears with ever increasing frequency in the Connecticut press condemning cruelty, praising kindness and advocating enforcement of anti-cruelty laws.

Humanitarians who know him, like and admire Mr. Cummings. Apparently the animals do too. Each evening when he returns from work his pet cat is waiting at the end of the driveway for a ride and a greeting.

Mrs. Cummings, well known interior decorator and designer, shares her husband’s love of animals. The Cummings live principally in Avon but also spend time in their other home in Weekepaug, R.I.

MEET JOHN DOMMERS

We are happy to announce that Mr. John Dommers, educator, author and naturalist and formerly in charge of environmental education in the New Haven Public School system has joined our staff as New England Regional Education Director with headquarters in East Haddam.

Mr. Dommers, a former Ranger at the West Rock Nature Center and lifelong humanitarian, brings exceptional talents to the humane movement. A graduate of Indiana's Valparaiso University with postgraduate work at Southern Connecticut College, he has been engaged in environmental education for several years.

Although particularly involved with child education, he has also conducted college courses and addressed the public at gatherings and over radio and television.

Additionally, he has written numerous articles for national and state publications.

Last year Xerox Education Publications (Weekly Reader) published a full-color four-book series on the environment authored and photographed by Mr. Dommers. The series is receiving nationwide attention and use. Now, Mr. Dommers is preparing a similar project on animal welfare.

His name appears in the 1972 Edition of Outstanding Young Men of America for which he received a personal award. Currently he is on the Connecticut Council for Environmental Education, the Connecticut Audiovisual Educators Association and the National Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Dommers lives in Madison, Connecticut. Mrs. Dommers, a former teacher, shares his humane interests. They have four children.

Win HSUS Achievement Awards

In the past year HSUS Humane Achievement Award recipients Mona Mekler and Joan Muterch have presented a humane education program in Connecticut Schools to over 20,000 students and faculty members.

In recognition, HSUS presented them with Certificates of Achievement stating that "utilizing a film portraying the need of controlling the surplus animal population, these HSUS members have explained the humane ethic and inspired young people to an awareness of animal welfare problems and a desire to help in solving these problems."

At this writing the two humanitarians are still giving the program, with dramatic effect.

We add here that Mrs. Mekler and Mrs. Muterch have not confined their efforts to the schools but have been in the forefront in direct animal welfare and in promoting kindness amongst citizens of all ages.

Incidentally, the film they show is the "Animals Are Crying" which HSUS can make available to other members who may wish to conduct similar programs in their own communities.

HSUS COMMENDS YOUTH FOR RESCUING KITTEN FROM ICY RIVER

Billy Davis, 14, likes and respects animals, a characteristic he demonstrated dramatically when disregarding his own safety he leaped into freezing water to rescue a drowning kitten which he later nursed back to health and named appropriately "Miracle".

The youth's brave and compassionate action earned him an HSUS commendation.
HSUS National President John Hoyt and National Vice President Patrick Parkes have both visited our East Haddam headquarters recently to offer assistance particularly in the Humane Education Center project.

We hope to be able to thank them personally at the Grand Opening of the Center some time after the first of the year.

**CURIOSITY STILL KILLS CATS**

Curiosity still kills cats in a variety of ancient and modern ugly ways all characterized by terror and suffering. From time immemorial inquisitive felines have been inadvertently locked in attics, cellars, outbuildings, closets and warehouses.

If nobody knows where they are and nobody hears their pathetic cries, they will, if not released, die of starvation and thirst.

Today's modern conveniences pose still another threat to the investigating Tom or Tabby. We have noted instances of cats climbing unseen into washing machines, dish washers, clothes dryers, freezers and ovens.

If the doors then are closed and the machines set in operation, the result is predictable and horrific. It only takes a second to check for a cat's presence. Take that second before slamming the door or pushing the button.

**Information About Canine Heart Worm**

Information about canine heart worm has been disseminated statewide by HSUS Advisor Dr. George D. Whitney, DVM, and chairman of the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association Public Information Committee.

Briefly, Dr. Whitney stated that heartworm, a disease transmitted by mosquitoes, has increased dramatically in Connecticut. Signs of heart worm include a soft cough and easy tiring. He recommended blood tests for all dogs and preventive diet supplements during the mosquito season.

**OLD Lyme TO HAVE NEW POUND**

A new pound for an old town is finally in the future for Old Lyme after a long, long time of urging by HSUS and Deputy State Canine Control Officer, Norman Horton.

The land has been selected and we now hope construction will proceed without further delay. As happens in almost every community, the dog-pound issue became entangled and stalled with other town issues which needed resolving.

Such situations are often more difficult to deal with than when there is outright opposition to pound improvement when real villains can be pinpointed and brought to account.

However, in Old Lyme nobody was against a new pound but at the same time nobody could do anything about it until other problems were solved.

**Proud Or Ashamed**

Three centuries ago our founding fathers brought forth upon the statutes of Connecticut a law which stated that the court at its discretion could punish such as "exercise any cruelty towards any bruit creature which are usually kept for the use of man".

Should we be proud that our fair state was so enlightened so early or shouldn't we he a bit ashamed that after all these years we still witness cruelty to animals as a blot on the escutcheon?

Let's hope the next tercentenary shown more improvement than the last.

**DANBURY BARNYARD CENTER FOR HUMANE EDUCATION APPROVED**

HSUS initiated and co-sponsored, this project has been approved by the Danbury Board of Education. For details see HSUS Regional News.

**DECEASED CONNECTICUT HSUS MEMBERS MEMORIALIZED**

At the National HSUS Conference held recently in Salt Lake City, Mr. Stanley K. Dimock of East Hartford and Mr. Morton J. Newburger of Weston were memorialized by being named posthumous HSUS Members in Perpetuity.

The honor was accorded to both men as outstanding humanitarians.

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**HSUS SPONSORSHIP of local events is exemplified by recent benefit sale held in Old Saybrook and an upcoming similar sale in Bridgeport. In each case proceeds will be used for local direct animal welfare. Participating in the Saybrook event, shown here, were Lou Searle, 'Dusty' Robbins and Debbie Cleveland. Mrs. Gladys Steeg is organizing the Bridgeport sale.**

**MRS. WEBER WINS — DURHAM GETS NEW POUND**

Dedicated HSUS member Mrs. Mary R. Weber was determined that her town of Durham should have a new pound. Our state headquarters, willing to help, had barely warmed up the machinery for a new pound campaign when Mrs. Weber called to say the battle was over -- and WON!

What happened? Mrs. Weber was what had happened. She just happened to drop in on the town officials time after time until they not only agreed she was right, but moved to do what was right.

We say, congratulations and thanks to Mrs. Weber for a victory that was all hers. We hope fellow humanitarians will take heart and action through her example if troubled by a local pound problem.

If you wish to go it on your own, we'll be glad to advise. If you want our active participation we'll be glad to furnish that as well.

**NEW FAIRFIELD SHELTER IN OPERATION**

A new shelter in Fairfield is now in operation. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. A.M. Murchie, chairman of the HSUS Great Bridgeport Area Committee, the shelter is equipped with a dozen special cages for cats and puppies.

**Protest Gets Governor's Action**

A Governor's investigation resulted when HSUS (CB) President Raymond E. Cummings protested the use of a live raccoon to train hunting dogs.

The raccoon, pursued by dogs, was towed on a raft across a pond and then hauled up into a tree to simulate a coon hunt. Such harassment of animals not only violates the anti-cruelty law but the HSUS tenet against causing fear or stress in animals.

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**PUBLIC MADE AWARE...**

**A humane act**

Labels hunters as 'hypocritical nuisance'

**Humane Society**

Asks Meskill for Coon-Hunt Probe

**Christmas Pets**

Dog Must Be Provided Good Shelter

**Uninspected Pet Food Causes 'Golly-Wobbles,' Admiral Says**

**Crow Shooting**

Urges opposition to impounding fee

**Humane Society Sponsors Tuition Aid Scholarship**

To curb the fur-takers
**Nominations Sought For HSUS Scholarship**

If you know of a high school senior who has an outstanding record of accomplishments in humane work, please inform our headquarters because such a senior is eligible to complete for our annual scholarship.

Accomplishments may be in the fields of direct animal welfare, humane education projects or heroic animal rescues. Important also is the candidate's attitude. Merely "liking animals" is not enough. A truly humane attitude is required.

Our office will arrange for interviews and the collection of documented evidence for those whose names are submitted.

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**HSUS Recommends Tags and Tattoos**

Tags and tattoos are recommended by HSUS for pet owners who love their pets enough to want to keep them. As a public service HSUS (Connecticut) has been offering tags for the past 10 years, thousands of them, all made as a volunteer contribution by Mr. Carl Burdick of Greenwich.

If for any reason your pet escapes your custody the tag will talk though the pet can't. The same with a tattoo. A tag application is contained elsewhere in the newsletter.

Information on tattooing may be obtained from our East Haddam headquarters.

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**Photographer Offers Pet Portraits**

Pet portraits are being offered by Mr. Arthur Frederiksen, professional photographer of Moodus, at reduced rates to HSUS members. Furthermore, Mr. Frederiksen contributes a portion of his fee in such cases to HSUS animal welfare.

Inquire at our headquarters for details.

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**Gift to HSUS from Insurance Firm**

We wish to express public thanks to the Connecticut Commercial Travelers Insurance Company of New Haven for the generous gift of several thousand dollars worth of office mailing machines and equipment.

The gift will save our office both time and money in the vital task of communicating with our members, the media, educators and the general public.

Particular thanks are owed to Messrs. Crawford, Nichols and Smith of Connecticut Commercial Travelers who arranged for the gift and its transfer to our office.

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**Join the HSUS Clipping Service**

If you read an article in a newspaper or magazine which pertains to animal welfare, please clip and mail it to our East Haddam office.

In the past such clippings have not only kept us informed, but have alerted us to take action. Clippings of state or local interest are retained for use here. Clippings of national or worldwide importance are forwarded to our national headquarters.